

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OPIC-03 AID-05 CU-02

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R 220929Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2018

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, EINV, PFOR, SCUL, KU, MY

SUBJECT: KUWAIT AND MALAYSIA SIGN ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL ACCORDS

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. HIGH LEVEL MALAYSIAN DELEGATION LED BY PRIME MINISTER TUN ABD AL-RAZZAK HAS CAPPED VISIT HERE WITH SIGNING OF AGREEMENTS CALLING FOR ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL COOPERATION. PRESENTLY FEW DEALS HAVE BEEN MADE PUBLIC, BUT KUWAIT IS EXPECTED TO SEND AN ECONOMIC MISSION TO MALAYSIA TO FOLLOW UP ON JOINT-VENTURES, INVESTMENTS AND OTHER ECONOMIC COOPERATION ACTIVITIES.

2. THE ECONOMIC AGREEMENT STIPULATES STRENGTHENING BILATERAL

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RELATIONS AND EXPANDING COOPERATION IN THE TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC

FIELDS. IT RECOMMENDS CONCLUSION OF SPECIALIZED SUBAGREEMENTS TO BE AGREED UPON IN THE FUTURE. A JOINT FOLLOWUP AND IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE IS TO BE FORMED. IT WILL MEET CONSECUTIVELY IN KUWAIT AND KUALA LUMPUR.

3. THE SECOND AGREEMENT CALLS FOR IMPROVING AND DEVELOPING CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH UN AND ISLAMIC PRINCIPLES AND CHARTERS. UNDER THE AGREEMENT PROFESSORS, TEACHERS, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS AND STUDENTS WILL BE EXCHANGED. THE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR EXCHANGES IN A BROAD RANGE OF CULTURAL ACTIVITIES.

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4. COMMENT: THE MALAYSIAN PREMIER'S VISIT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN A POLITICAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SUCCESS. THE VISIT ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A QUALIFIED ECONOMIC SUCCESS. ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS THAT FEW IF ANY SPECIFIC ECONOMIC PROJECTS WERE AGREED UPON, THE KUWAITIS DID INDICATE AN INTEREST IN ECONOMIC COOPERATION WITH MALAYSIA. OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH LOCAL BUSINESSMEN WHO TOOK PART IN THE RECENT GULF TRADE AND INVESTMENT MISSION TO MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE AND INDONESIA TEND TO CORROBORATE THIS VIEW. THE BUSINESSMEN FOUND MALAYSIA TO BE THE MOST INTERESTING OF THE THREE COUNTRIES FROM A COMMERCIAL AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT POINT OF VIEW. SOME WONDERED WHETHER MALAYSIA REALLY NEEDED CAPITAL WHICH IS ABOUT THE ONLY THING THE KUWAITIS CAN OFFER. IN ANY CASE RECENT VISITS BY PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN AND OFFICIALS SUGGEST THAT THE KUWAITIS WILL BE LOOKING SERIOUSLY INTO INVESTMENT AND JOINT-VENTURE POSSIBILITIES IN MALAYSIA

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